(id) The recruitment of compulsory preshipment inspection in respect of agricultural and food products, fruit products, fish and fishery products, chemicals and allied products, engineering t>roducts, jute products, coir products including coir yarn (baled) and (non baled) hand knitted woollen carpets, footware components and human hair double drawn has been dispensed with provided the exporter produces a firm letter from overseas buyer that he does not want preshipment inspection from any Indian Inspection Agency and files it with the Customs authority at the time of shipment.

(iii) 17 out of 25 preshipment export documents required by the exoorters have been simplified, aligned and standardised on the basis of United Nations layout key which has been adopted by most of the developed countries including developing countries like Hong Kong, Singapore, Srilanka and Indonesia. The new system effected from 1st October, 1991 enables the exporter to prepare 17 out of 25 documents with the help of two Master Documents and use of a photo copier and appropriate masks with economy, accuracy, speed and convenience thereby reducing export documentation burden on our exporters appreciably.

(b) Most " the developed countries in cluding U.S.A., U.K. and Japan have ad opted United Nations layout key for docu ments connected with trade and transport. The new system is expected to put India at par with their practices.

(c) It is difficult to precisely estimate when the country could achieve a trade surplus for it depends on a number of global and domestic factors like international trading environment, prices in-ternational ternational market, domestic requirement of essential items etc.

(d) The interest charges for the year 1990-91 is Rs. 4069 Crores.

Export of Rice

1038. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had permitted export of rice during the year 1990-91;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from the All-India Rice Exporters Association to release the quota of non-basmati rice for exports; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 2,41,830 MTs of basmati rice valued at Rs. 288.06 crores and 3,13,720 MTs of non-Basmati rice valued at rupees! 187.83 crores were exported during 1990-91.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A quota of 2 lakh MTs of non-Basmati rice was released and placed at the disposal of Agricultural and Processed Food Proucts Expi^t Development Authority in addition to the earlier quota of 5 lakh MTs released for 1991-92

Investment by French firms in India

1039. UMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that while inaugurating the Ninth meeting of the Indo-French Joint Business Council he had given an invitation to the French Industrialists to invest in the sector of Computer Software. Food Processing, Telecommunications, Pollution control, superconductivity and Chemicals, etc. in India; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the French Industrialists to this invitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI p. CHIDAMBARAM); (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The French Industrialists welcomed the recent changes effected in the Indus-rial and Trade Policies and were confident that it would evoke greater response from French Companies.

Export targets

1040. SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) what were the export targets expected during the last two years;

(b) whether the actual targets have been achieved;

(c) if not, what had been the short fall in experts in terms of rupee; and

(d) what are the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to achieve the export target?

@1041. SHRI ASHOK NATH VER-MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) to (c) The details of export targets, achievements and shortfalls during the last two years i.e. 1989-90 and 1990-91 are given as under;—

(Value : Rs. Crores)

Year	Targets	Achievements	Shortfall
1989-90	28,025	27,681	344
1990-91	36,000	32,527	3,473

(d) The main reasons for shortfall in achievements of the export targets during 1990-91 include slow down in world economy, recession in developed countries, outbreak of gulf war, slow down in global diamond trade etc- The Government in-trodiuced a package of trade policy reforms aimed at strengthening of export incentives. eliminating substantial volume of import licensing and optimal import compression. REp licences have been replaced by a new Instrument named Eximscrips. These will be the means of obtaining access to certain categories of imports of raw materials, components and spares. The system of advance licensing as an ins. trument of export promotion has also been strengthened. Government has decided to allow established exporters to open foreign currency acounts in approved banks and allow exporters to raise external credits pay for export related imports from such accounts, and credit export proceeds to such accounts. Besides, Government hare taken other steps which induce reducing controls through licensing, simplification of procedures for export, activisation of Board of Trade, bilateral discussion with selected countries, interaction with national organisations of trade and industry etc.

Loan to small sector under single window Scheme

@1041. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have notified that composite loan to small sector under single window scheme would be channelised through Commercial Banks also which were earlier being given only by the State Financial Corporations (SFCs) as incorporated with New "Industrial Policy for small sector to facilitate

©Previously Unstarred Question 732 Transferred from 28th November, 1991.